

16. OCCURRENCE OF THE BLUEHEADED ROCK THRUSH,
MONTICOLA CINCLORHYNCHUS (VIGORS)
(MUSCICAPIDAE: TURDINAE) IN ORISSA

During the course of avifaunal survey in February-March, 1977, in Orissa, an interesting specimen of the Blueheaded Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* (Vigors, 1832) was collected from the Govindapalle, Koraput District, Orissa on February 29.

The specimen is a male which measures: Wing 105, bill from the skull 24, tail 72, tarsus 25 mm. and its weight is 34 g. According to standard literature on Indian ornithology like Baker (1924), and Ali and Ripley (1973), in summer this species is known to breed in the Himalayas from western part of Pakistan

through Kashmir as far east as Arunachal Pradesh thence south to Nagaland. It is also found in Cachar (Assam), Khasi and Garo hills (Meghalaya) where it breeds. In winter it migrates mostly to the Western Ghats from Gujarat, south through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Western Tamil Nadu, and has also been recorded from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, Sikkim, Assam and in Pakistan. So far it has not been known from Orissa. The present example, therefore, serves as the first record of its occurrence in Orissa.

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REFERENCES

- ALI, S. & RIPLEY, S. D. (1973): Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan, together with those of Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Ceylon. 9 : 67. Oxford University Press, Bombay.
BAKER, E. C. S. (1924): Fauna of British India, Birds, 2 : 171. Taylor & Francis, London.

17. ON THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF THE EASTERN GHATS
RUFOUSBELLIED MUNIA, *LONCHURA KELAARTI VERNAYI*
(WHISTLER AND KINNEAR, 1933) [AVES: PLOCEIDAE]

(With two text-figures)

The Eastern Ghats population of the Rufous-bellied Munia was separated from *Lonchura kelaarti jerdoni* (Hume) 1875 as *L. k. vernayi* by Whistler & Kinnear (1933), with Sankrametta (Vishakhapatnam District, Andhra Pradesh) as the type-locality. Ali & Ripley (1974, p. 111), however, treated *vernayi* as a syno-

nym of *jerdoni* because the former was 'Described from three specimens of *jerdoni* in immature plumage' (loc. cit., note).

However, while working on recent collections of birds from Orissa made by this Department, I find that the specimens of this species from Kotagarh, Phulbani District,